

**CITY OF LAGUNA NIGUEL**

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CITY COUNCIL

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March 6, 2025

Mr. Kia Mortazavi
Executive Director, Planning
Orange County Transportation Authority
550 South Main Street
Orange, CA 92863

Subject: Master Plan of Arterial Highways Amendment Request – La Paz Road

Dear Mr. Mortazavi:

The City of Laguna Niguel (City) is requesting an amendment to the Master Plan of Arterial Highways (MPAH) for La Paz Road. La Paz Road is identified on the MPAH as a 4-lane Primary Arterial between Aliso Creek Road and Crown Valley Parkway. In December 2023, OCTA approved a temporary reconfiguration of La Paz Road between Rancho Niguel Road and Kings Road, reducing the roadway from four lanes to two lanes in response to earth movement and a local emergency declaration. Since then, the City has received grant funding to permanently repair the roadway and earth movement, and the preliminary design phase of the project is underway. As part of the permanent repairs, the City respectfully requests that the MPAH be formally amended to reclassify La Paz Road between Aliso Creek Road and Crown Valley Parkway as a 2-lane Divided Collector roadway. Attachment "A" illustrates the proposed amendment limits.

The City is currently amending its General Plan Circulation Element to reflect the requested reclassification of La Paz Road from Primary Arterial to Divided Collector. The reclassification will support the City's objective to enhance safety and circulation along La Paz Road. The reclassification will also accommodate multi-modal improvements along La Paz Road, including but not limited to the future implementation of an enhanced bikeway.

The lane reduction from four lanes to two lanes is feasible based on Average Daily Traffic (ADT) data collected by the City in 2021 (Attachment "B") and 2022 (Attachment "C"). This data demonstrates that the segment of La Paz Road between Aliso Creek Road and Crown Valley Parkway consistently serves less than 13,000 ADT. This is well within the range of 9,000 to 15,000 ADT for a Divided Collector in the MPAH, yielding a Level of Service C or better.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Kathy Kelley, Engineering Services Manager, at kkelley@cityoflagunaniguel.org or (949) 362-4341.

Sincerely,

Jacki Scott
Public Works Director/City Engineer